

Environmental Assessment

Missouri Headwaters State Park Campground Road Improvement Project

July 2, 2012



ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

MEPA/NEPA CHECKLIST

MISSION. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This brief environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will allow Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The project sponsor has a responsibility to ensure that all impacts have been addressed. Some effects may be negative; others may be positive. Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, please discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to initiate a campground Road Improvement Project within Missouri Headwaters State Park. This would include adding additional gravel and grading the interior campground roads, spurs and day use areas at Ling Rock and the parking area located at the boat launch on the Missouri River. There are 17 campsites within the park. Many will have additional gravel added to redirect water runoff and provide a more solid and stable pad for RVs and other vehicles.

Development	_____
Renovation	_____
Maintenance	<u> X </u>
Land Acquisition	_____
Equipment Acquisition	_____
Other (Describe)	_____

2. Agency authority for the proposed action:

The 1977 Montana Legislature enacted statute 87-1-605, which directs Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) to acquire, develop, and operate a system of state parks.

Furthermore, state statute 23-1-110 MCA and ARM 12.2.433 guides public involvement and comment for the improvements at state parks and fishing access sites, which this document provides.

3. Name of project: Missouri Headwaters State Park Campground Improvement Project.

4. Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):

5. Anticipated Schedule:

Estimated construction commencement date: Fall of 2012

Estimated completion date: Fall of 2012

Current status of project design (% complete): 95%

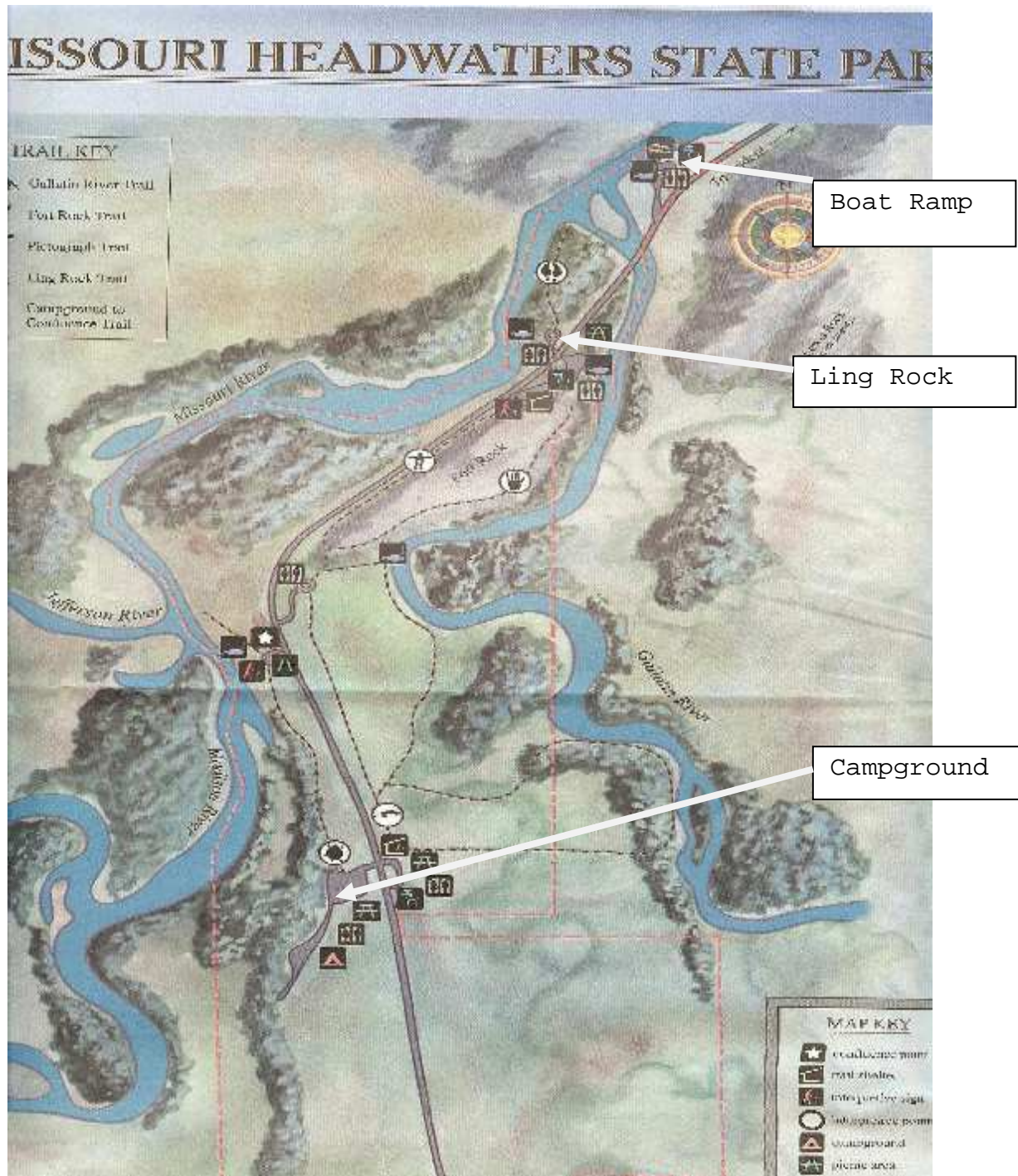
6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).

Missouri Headwaters State Park is located in Gallatin County Montana, section 17 of Township 2 North, Range 2 East.



Missouri Headwaters
State Park

Map/site plan: Missouri Headwaters State Park



8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Permit (SWPPP) from MDEQ Montana Department of Environmental Quality to be secured by contractor.

(b) Funding: Montana State Parks Road Fund Budget.
Engineers estimated cost = \$107,000.00

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Montana State Historic Preservation Office – cultural and historic resources
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

9. Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action.

Missouri Headwaters State Park is a 506 acre cultural park located at the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin rivers to form the Missouri River in south central Montana. The Park includes several day-use areas, a boat-launch, latrines, and a campground with 17 camping sites, with facilities for two campground hosts, restroom facilities, and several hiking trails (see map page 4).

The Park is extremely popular, with visitors passing through this area on their way to and from Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks as well as other scenic attractions located in Montana since its location is only 4 ½ miles from Interstate 90. Local people from Bozeman and other parts of Gallatin County also use the park for a quick nearby get away, to camp, fish and float the rivers.

The proposed project will improve gravel roads and parking areas in the campground, Ling Rock day use area and the park's boat ramp located downriver from the Missouri Headwaters State Park main day use interpretive area.

SCOPE OF WORK

This project includes work in three locations. The campground work includes resurfacing of the gravel road and camp pads with a 3 inch lift of new gravel, new gravel for two existing campsites which previously had none, grading or adding new topsoil, seeding and mulch, and placement of landscaping rocks where needed.

The Ling Rock portion of the project includes resurfacing of the gravel road and parking area. Other work will include grading, and/or adding topsoil, seeding and mulch to the grassy areas as needed to promote proper drainage.

The work at the boat launch area includes resurfacing of the existing gravel road and parking area.



Figure 1. Photo showing puddle of water at disabled accessible site.



Figure 2. Photo of water in roadway at Many Waters Tipi.

10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the required no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a comparison of the alternatives with the proposed action/preferred alternative:

Alternative A: No Action

No action would leave the roads, parking areas and camp pads at Missouri Headwaters State Park in their current state. Numerous parking pads in the campground are not level or slope in the wrong direction creating drainage issues. Two of the 17 campsites have no gravel on their parking pads, which creates a maintenance issue for parks staff, who are continually filling in and smoothing out rutted areas. During rain events, large vehicles are at risk of becoming stuck. By not adding the additional barrier (landscaping) rocks, some park areas are vulnerable to resource damage from vehicles parking and traveling across them.

At the Ling Rock day use area puddles of water will continue to puddle up on the roadway and parking area after rain events. This will undermine the existing gravel surface creating ruts in the road surface.

By not adding new gravel to the parking area at the boat launch area, users of this area will continue to park on an uneven and rough parking area.

Alternative B: Preferred Alternative

This alternative will allow Montana State Parks to maintain, and protect park resources and provide visitors with more pleasing parking areas and access roads. Drainage deficiencies will be addressed eliminating pot holes and sink holes. Staff and equipment time will be better utilized maintaining other park facilities instead of constantly repairing rutted roads and parking pads. Additional barrier rocks will help protect park resources from unauthorized off road vehicle use.

Visitors using boat ramp facilities will have a better facility to launch and park their vehicles and trailers insuring a more pleasant experience.

Disabled accessible camping and parking areas will give better access for people with disabilities and as well those using wheel chairs.

11. List of agencies consulted during preparation of this Environmental Checklist:

Montana State Historic Preservation Office- Cultural and historic resources
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality - Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
Montana Department of Tourism - Tourism report.

12. Name of Preparer(s) of this Environmental Checklist:

David Andrus
Manager, Missouri Headwaters State Park
1585 Trident Road
Three Forks, MT 59752

(406)-285-3610

daveandrus@mt.gov

13. Date Draft EA submitted for public review.

July 2, 2012

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				1a
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X			1b
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				1c
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				1d
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other		X				

1a & 1c. No unique geologic features would be destroyed, covered, or modified by the proposed action.

1b. Some areas will receive additional top soil to raise grade level to promote drainage. These areas will be reseeded, thus there will be temporary loss of productivity.

1d. The road system in the Park drains into predominantly vegetated areas not into any of the nearby rivers.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				2a
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			X			2b
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?		X				
f. Other		X				2e

2a & 2e. Minor and temporary dust and vehicle emissions will be created by heavy equipment during construction but would end after completion of the project. The proposed project will not conflict with any federal or state air quality regulations.

2b. Minor odors could be produced by heavy equipment during construction but would end after completion of the project

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X			yes	3a
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			X		yes	3b
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?		X				3l
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?		X				3m
n. Other:		X				

3a & 3m. It is possible that the proposed project would result in a small discharge of sediment into adjacent surface water during construction. FWP would ensure that Best Management Practices would be employed during construction to minimize that risk.

3b. Run-off patterns from water leaving the road surface may be altered by the project in some areas. Best Management Practices (BMP) would be used during construction to mitigate any sediment entering nearby rivers or waterways. These can include, but are not limited to, constructing gravel bars to trap sediment, sediment fencing, directing run-off into vegetative zones, and developing sediment catch basins.

3l. Missouri Headwaters State Park is located within a designated floodplain; however the proposed action will not alter the floodplain.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		yes	4a
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		yes	4b
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				4c
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		yes	4e
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?		X				4f
g. Other:		X				

4a & 4b. The proposed road and campsite work would require the disturbance and/or removal of some grasses, forbs, and small shrubs. No mature trees would be removed.

4c. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Program's (MNHP) species of concern database found three species of concern: long-styled thistle, lesser rushy milkvetch, and divide bladderpod. This project will have no impact because vegetation will not be removed or impacted during this project. Furthermore, these species have not been found on the site of the proposed project.

4e. Construction activity may increase the possibility of noxious weeds becoming established because of the soil disturbing activities. Reseeding disrupted soils after construction will limit the potential for additional weed infestation by providing competition from a mix of native vegetation. Noxious weed control efforts will follow the guidelines presented in the FWP's 2008 Noxious Weed Management Plan which includes the use of herbicides and mechanical efforts.

4f. The proposed action does not require the disturbance of any wetland or riparian areas, as all areas affected by this project are within existing park road and campground infrastructure.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				5a
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				5b
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				5f
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?		X				5h
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location?		X				5i
j. Other:		X				

5a. Impacts to fish habitat would be minimized by implementing stream/riparian management zone BMP's. During construction, standard BMP's would be used to mitigate any sediment entering the rivers. These can include, but are not limited to, constructing gravel bars to trap sediment, sediment fencing, directing runoff into vegetative zones, and development of sediment catch basins.

5b. The proposed project is unlikely to cause any negative impacts to animal species within the Park or greater area.

5f, 5h & 5i. A search of the Montana Natural Heritage Database found there are six species of concern known to be present within the vicinity of the Park. Those species are the gray wolf, the wolverine, Townsend's big eared bat, spotted bat, bald eagle, and the peregrine falcon. Gray wolves have been spotted near the park and use this area to travel from one area to another. Bald eagles and peregrine falcons have been seen in the park and nest nearby. The time of construction during the early fall is past the nesting season for these species. The construction phase of this project will occur during the day and will not affect nocturnal species such as bats. Due to high human activity at the park as well as the elevation of the park there are no reports of wolverines in, or nearby. Wolverines tend to inhabit high elevation, isolated environments.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			6a
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:		X				

6a. A temporary increase in noise level would be expected during implementation of the proposed action but would end after completion of the project. It is unlikely that any residences would be affected by the noise.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		X	7a
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?			X		X	7d
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?		X				
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X		X	7f
g. Other:		X				

7a. There will be some temporary loss of camping revenue as the campground will be closed during construction. Scheduling of the construction phase of the project for after the peak camping season will mitigate this.

7d. Travelers passing through who wish to camp at Missouri Headwaters State park will have to find accommodations elsewhere. Parks staff will direct campers to other campgrounds, including camping facilities available at nearby Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park. Scheduling of the construction phase of the project for after the peak camping season will mitigate this.

7f. During the construction phase of the project, trucks hauling gravel for the campground improvement project will be using the highway 286. This increased traffic volume will be temporary. Scheduling of the construction phase of the project for after the peak camping season will mitigate this.

There would be no long term alteration or interference with the existing land use at Missouri Headwaters State Park.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?			X			8a
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?		X				
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?		X				
f. Other:		X				

8a. There is a slight risk of small petroleum leaks or spills from heavy equipment during the proposed construction project. This risk can be minimized by the use of Best Management Practices (BMP's) during all phases of the project.

Chemical spraying is part of FWP's weed management plan to limit the infestation of noxious weeds within the Park which is traditionally completed by a contractor. The licensed professional would conduct weed treatment and storage and mixing of the chemicals would be in accordance with standard operating procedures.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?			X Positive			9e
f. Other:		X				

9e. The proposed project would improve traffic flow, maneuverability, and available parking within the Park.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify: <i>recreation trails, roads, litter</i>		X				
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Increased used of any energy source?		X				
e. Other.		X				
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.						
g. Define projected maintenance costs.						

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				11c
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?		X				
e. Other:		X				

11c. The proposed action will improve the quality of the aesthetics and recreational experience for many visitors to Missouri Headwaters State Park. There will be fewer puddles on the roads and camp sites, less mud and a better parking surface available at the boat ramp area.

If the construction of the proposed campground and park improvements occurs when the Park is open to campers and other visitors, some vehicle movement may be inconvenienced because of the presence of heavy equipment. FWP will try to schedule the proposed improvement projects after peak summer visitation times to the Park to minimize any conflicts or inconveniences.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?	X					12a
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?	X					12d
e. Other:		X				

12a & 12d. FWP's Heritage Resources Program Manager will determine if a cultural resource survey is needed prior to the implementation of the proposed improvements and will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office as necessary. If any previously unrecorded cultural resource sites are discovered during construction, the Heritage Resource Program Manager will work with project engineers and the Park manager to develop a project design that avoids further disturbance to these sites.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT. At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?		X				13f
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.	Please see Part I above, Item # 8a. Permits: Listing of each local, state or federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.					

13f & 13g. This EA found no significant impacts to the human or physical environment from the proposed action. Negative cumulative impacts from this project are not expected, but some public debate could occur.

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole.

Final plans and specifications for the project will be developed by the state appointed engineering consultant in conjunction with FWP engineering staff. FWP engineers will design other portions of the project. A private contractor selected through the State's competitive bid process will complete construction. Final inspection will be the responsibility of the FWP Design and Construction Bureau.

State pesticide use laws and regulations will be followed. Application records will be submitted to the Montana Department of Agriculture as required every two-years, and these records will be available to state investigators upon request.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES _____

NO X

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

This EA only revealed negligible impacts to the physical and human environment stemming from the proposed action. It is unlikely that any threatened or endangered species would be affected, and no unique or physical features would be disturbed. The proposed action would benefit visitors to Missouri Headwaters State Park by improving the ease and safety of vehicular travel within the Park in addition to providing a more positive recreational experience. Disruption of wildlife, recreation, and other public uses at Missouri Headwaters State Park would be temporary and occur intermittently during the construction period. Following the completion of the project, resource impacts would likely be minimized through better defined roadways which aid in preventing user-pioneered road and parking areas.

The proposed project would increase public health, safety, and comfort while in the Park, and environmental resources would be better protected. In short, the proposed project would considerably increase visitor enjoyment and customer service satisfaction at Missouri Headwaters State Park without causing significant adverse affects to the environment.

PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Public involvement:

The public will be notified by way of a statewide press release, legal notices in *The Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, and the *Three Forks Herald* and by public notice on the Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page:
<http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices>.

Individual notices will be sent to the region's standard EA distribution list and to those that have requested one. If requested, FWP will hold a public meeting for the proposal. This level of public notice and participation is appropriate for a project of this scope having few minor impacts for the enhancements to the campground and park.

2. Duration of comment period:

The public comment period will extend for (30) thirty days following the publication of the second legal notice in area newspapers. Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., July 30, 2012 and can be mailed to the address below:

David Andrus
Missouri Headwaters State Park Improvement Project
1585 Trident Road
Three Forks, MT 59752
Or email: daveandrus@mt.gov

PART V. EA PREPARATION

1. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? No

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.

Based on an evaluation of the primary, secondary, and cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment under the Montana Environmental Protection Act (MEPA), this environmental review found no significant impacts from the proposed project. In determining the significance of the impacts, FWP assessed the severity, duration, geographic extent, and frequency of the impact, and the probability that the impact would occur or reasonable assurance that the impact would not occur. FWP also assessed growth-inducing or growth inhibiting aspects of the impact, the importance to the state and to society of the environmental resource or value affected, and precedent that would be set as a result of the proposed action that would commit FWP to future actions, and potential conflicts with local, federal, or state laws. Therefore, an EA is the appropriate level of review and an EIS is not required.

2. Persons responsible for preparing the EA:

David Andrus	Jerry Walker
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Park Manager	Region 3 Park Supervisor
1585 Trident Rd.	1400 South 19 th Ave
Three Forks, MT 59752	Bozeman, MT 59718
(406)-285-3610	(406) 994-3552

3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks:
Design & Construction Bureau
Fisheries Division
Legal Bureau Parks Division
Wildlife Division
Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Montana Department of Commerce – Tourism Montana

APPENDICES

- A. 23-1-110 MCA Project Qualification Checklist
- B. Site Plans
- C. Tourism Report-Department of Commerce (pending)
- D. Clearance Letter- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)

APPENDIX A

23-1-110 MCA PROJECT QUALIFICATION CHECKLIST

Date: June 1, 2012

Person Reviewing: David Andrus

Project Location: Gallatin County Montana, section 17 of Township 2 North, Range 2 East.

Description of Proposed Work:

The Missouri Headwaters State Park Road Improvement Project consists of work in three main areas throughout the Park. The campground work includes, resurfacing of the gravel road and camp pads with a 3 inch lift of new gravel, new gravel for two existing campsites which previously had none, grading or adding new topsoil, seeding and mulch, and placement of landscaping rocks where needed.

The Ling Rock portion of the project includes resurfacing of the gravel road and parking area. Other work will include grading, and/or adding topsoil, seeding and mulch to the grassy areas as needed to promote proper drainage.

The work at the boat launch area includes resurfacing of the existing gravel road and parking area.

- ☐ A. New roadway or trail built over undisturbed land?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ B. New building construction (buildings <100 sf and vault latrines exempt)?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ C. Any excavation of 20 c.y. or greater?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ D. New parking lots built over undisturbed land or expansion of existing lot that increases parking capacity by 25% or more?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ E. Any new shoreline alteration that exceeds a double-wide boat ramp or handicapped fishing station?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ F. Any new construction into lakes, reservoirs, or streams?
Comments: *No*
- ☐ G. Any new construction in an area with National Registry quality cultural artifacts (as determined by State Historical Preservation Office)?

Comments: *No*

- ☐ H. Any new above ground utility lines?

Comments: *No*

- ☐ I. Any increase or decrease in campsites of 25% or more of an existing number of campsites? *No*

Comments:

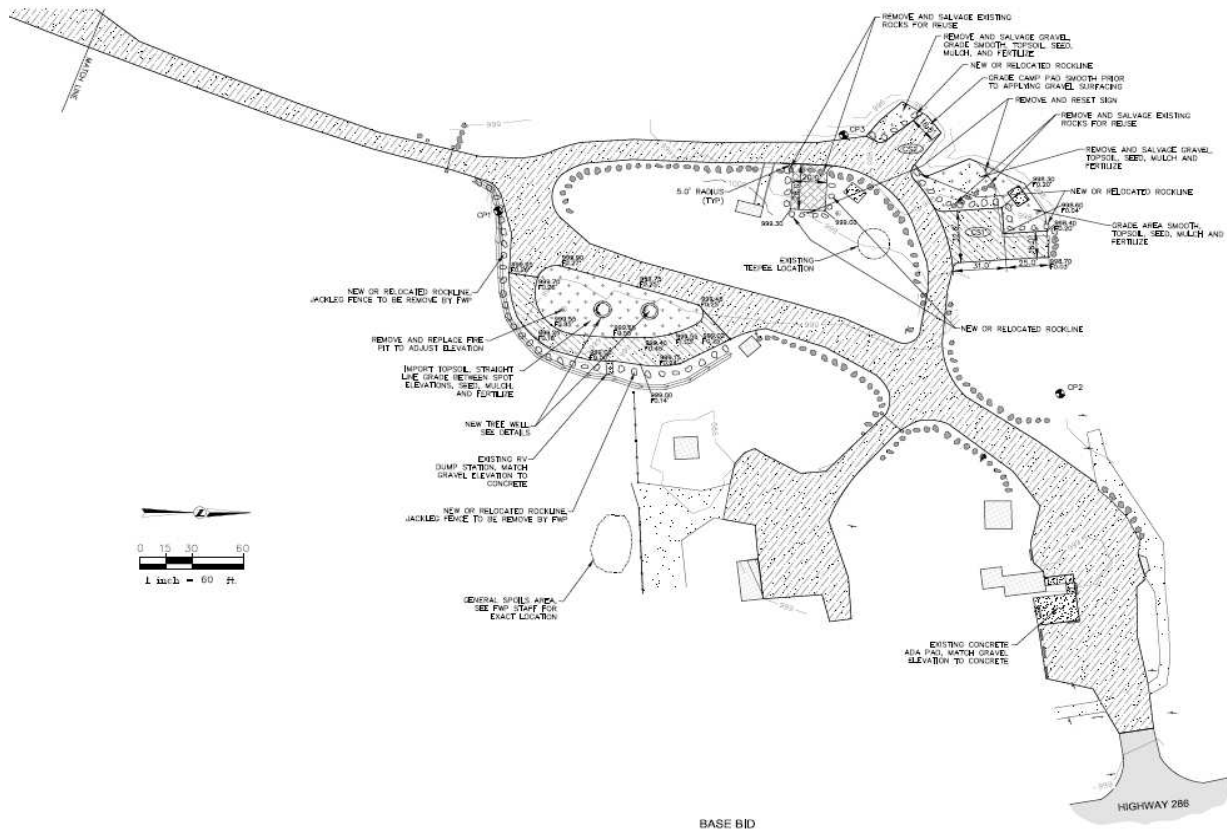
- ☐ J. Proposed project significantly changes the existing features or use pattern; including effects of a series of individual projects?

Comments: *No*

If any of the above are checked, 23-1-110 MCA rules apply to this proposed work and should be documented on the checklist above. Refer to MEPA/HB495 Cross Reference Summary for further assistance; see Regional State Parks office.

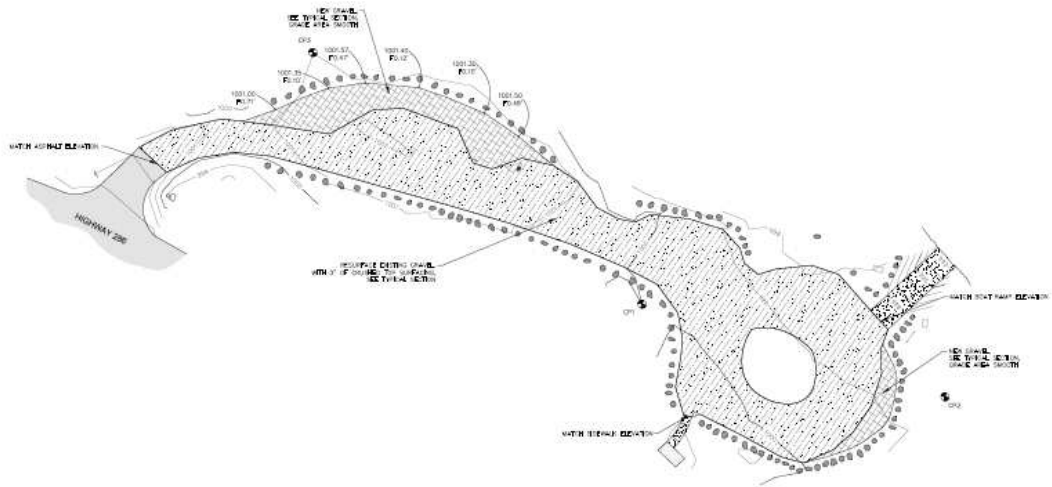
APPENDIX B

Site Plans



BASE BID

MAY 22, 2012	REVISOR: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:	 Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	CAMPGROUND SITE PLAN 2 MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK FWP #7096417
DATE:	3 LARSON MAY 22, 2012			
MAY 22, 2012	APPROVED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE:		



POINT	NORTHING	EASTING	ELEVATION	DESCRIPTION
CP1	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,000.00	IRON PIN
CP2	5,162.51	5,000.00	868.08	IRON PIN
CP3	4,764.35	4,373.26	1,200.89	IRON PIN

ELEVATION DATUM AND COORDINATE SYSTEM ARE ASSUMED.

ADDITIVE ALTERNATE #2

95% REVIEW DRAWINGS

D. LARSON DRAWN BY: MAY 22, 2013 CHECKED BY: DATE:	APPROVED BY: DATE: MAY 22, 2013 APPROVED BY: DATE:		BOAT LAUNCH SITE PLAN MISSOURI HEADWATERS STATE PARK FWP #7096417		SHEET
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APPENDIX C
TOURISM REPORT
MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA)/HB495

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has initiated the review process as mandated by HB495 and the Montana Environmental Policy Act in its consideration of the project described below. As part of the review process, input and comments are being solicited. Please complete the project name and project description portions and submit this form to:

Carol Crockett, Visitor Service Manager
Montana Office of Tourism-Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200533
301 S. Park
Helena, MT 59620-0533

Project Name: Missouri Headwaters State Park Road Improvement Project

Project Location: Missouri Headwaters State Park, Gallatin County Montana, section 17 of Township 2 North, Range 2 East.

Project Description: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) proposes a project to improve gravel roads and parking areas in the campground, Ling Rock day use area and the park's boat ramp located downriver from the Missouri Headwaters State Park main day use interpretive area. The campground work includes, resurfacing of the gravel road and camp pads with a 3 inch lift of new gravel, new gravel for two existing campsites which previously had none, grading or adding new topsoil, seeding and mulch, and placement of landscaping rocks where needed. The Ling Rock portion of the project includes resurfacing of the gravel road and parking area. Other work will include grading, and/or adding topsoil, seeding and mulch to the grassy areas as needed to promote proper drainage. The work at the boat launch area includes resurfacing of the existing gravel road and parking area.

1. Would this site development project have an impact on the tourism economy?

NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to positively impact the tourism and recreation industry economy if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

2. Does this impending improvement alter the quality or quantity of recreation/tourism opportunities and settings?

NO YES If YES, briefly describe:

Yes, as described, the project has the potential to improve quality and quantity of tourism and recreational opportunities if properly maintained. We are assuming the agency has determined it has necessary funding for the on-going operations and maintenance once this project is complete.

Signature Carol Crockett, Visitor Services Manager Date June 19, 2012

APPENDIX D

CLEARANCE LETTER – STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE



*Historic Preservation
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Research Center*

June 22, 2012

David Andrus
Manager
Missouri Headwaters State Park
1585 Trident Road
Three Forks, MT 59752

RE: **Draft Environmental Assessment
Missouri Headwaters State Park
Campground Road Improvement Project**

Dear Mr. Andrus:

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the proposed Campground Road Improvement Project at the Missouri Headwaters State Park. We concur with the findings and comments listed in Part II.12 [Cultural/Historical Resources] of the Environmental Analysis MEPA/NEPA Checklist.

We look forward to further consultation should the FWP's Heritage Resources Program Manager determine a cultural resource survey is warranted, or should any previously unrecorded cultural resource sites be inadvertently discovered during construction.

If you need to further discuss the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact me at (406) 444 – 0388 or ksears@mt.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the preservation of Montana's unique cultural resources.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Sears". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the typed name.

Kathryn Sears
Review and Compliance Officer
State Historic Preservation Office

File: FWP – 2012 - 2012062204

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
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